Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, During the 1940s and 1950s, between 30,000 and 50,000 cases of polio were recorded annually in the United States, causing widespread fear and panic; and,

Whereas, The polio virus damages muscle controlling nerves which results in muscle weakness and severe illness and may cause the person to lose the ability to move their arms and legs and also may inhibit their ability to breathe without assistance; and,

Whereas, All South Dakota children are required to be vaccinated against polio prior to school entry to protect them from the disease; and,

Whereas, The injectable polio vaccine eliminated naturally occurring polio cases in the United States but has not yet eliminated polio in other parts of the world; and,

Whereas, At least 70 percent of paralytic polio survivors, and 40 percent of nonparalytic polio survivors are developing post-polio sequelae, which are unexpected and often disabling symptoms that occur up to 35 years after the polio virus attacks, including overwhelming fatigue, muscle weakness, muscle and joint pain, sleep disorders, heightened sensitivity to anesthesia, cold pain, and difficulty swallowing and breathing; and,

Whereas, Many medical professionals and polio survivors do not know of the existence of post-polio sequelae or of the available treatments:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 2007 as

POLIO AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventh Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State